

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

All pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #), or (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method for preparing a hub document which describes entity declarations for referring to entities of documents individually corresponding to a plurality of non-structured documents in order to prepare a single hub document format structured document from the plurality of non-structured documents, comprising the steps of:

setting in advance an original document storage area-directory for storing the non-structured documents and a structured document storage area-directory for storing structured documents obtained by conversion of the non-structured documents;

storing, each time one of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document is prepared or edited, the non-structured document into the original document storage area-directory;

converting the non-structured documents stored in the original document storage area-directory into structured documents and storing the structured documents into the structured document storage area-directory;

automatically acquiring document names of the plurality of structured documents stored in the structured document storage area-directory and preparing corresponding entity declarations ~~for plurality of structured~~ referring to ~~entities of the~~ structured documents;

and automatically preparing the hub document based on the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document storage area-directory and the structured document storage directoryarea, an attachment file storage directoryarea for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and entity declarations regarding the attachment files is set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file storage directoryarea and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file storage areadirectory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the attachment file storage areadirectory are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in addition to the original document storage areadirectory and the structured document storage areadirectory, an attachment file storage areadirectory for storing attachment files attached to the non-structured documents and an entity declaration storage areadirectory for storing entity declarations regarding the attachment files are set in advance, and, upon preparation or editing of any of the plurality of non-structured documents to be included in the hub document format structured document, if an attachment file is attached to the non-structured document, then the attachment file is stored into the attachment file storage areadirectory and an entity declaration for referring to an entity of the attachment file is prepared and stored into the attachment file storage areadirectory, and then the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage areadirectorysdirectories are extracted and the hub document is prepared based on the entity declarations regarding the attachment files and the entity declarations regarding the structured documents.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names same ascorresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names same as  
corresponding to file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations of the structured documents have file names corresponding to  
same as file names of the original non-structured documents individually corresponding to the structured documents.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage are a directory have file names corresponding to  
same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage are a directory have file names corresponding to  
same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage are a directory have file names corresponding to  
same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage are a directory have file names corresponding to  
same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity

declaration storage areadirectory have file names corresponding to same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the entity declarations regarding the attachment files stored in the entity declaration storage areadirectory have file names corresponding to same as file names of the non-structured documents to which the attachment files are attached.

13. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

14. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

15. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

16. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

17. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

18. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

19. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

20. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

21. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

22. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

23. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

24. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the attachment files are graphic files each of which includes graphic information.

25. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

26. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

27. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

28. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

29. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

30. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

31. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

32. A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

33. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

34. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

35. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

36. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

37. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

38. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

39. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

40. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

41. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

42. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

43. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

44. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

45. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

46. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

47. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.

48. (ORIGINAL) A hub document preparation method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the structured documents are Standard Generalized Markup Language documents whose document structure is defined by a Document Type Definition.